

ORDER OF HEALTH OFFICER
Effective January 22, 2021

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the worldwide outbreak of COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus a pandemic;

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, in consultation with public health authorities, declared a National state of emergency on March 12, 2020;

WHEREAS, as of January 20, 2021, the John Hopkins Map indicates there are over 24,382,311 cases and more than 404,898 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, every state in the United States are experiencing confirmed cases of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) recognizes COVID-19 as a threat to the residents of Montana;

WHEREAS, as of January 20, 2021, there are 90,255 cases in the State of Montana which include 1,094 COVID-19 related deaths;

WHEREAS, as of January 20, 2021, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Cascade County is up to 7,185;

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department has activated response plans and protocols to prepare for cases of COVID-19 in Cascade County;

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department has also worked to identify, contact, and test individuals in Cascade County who have been potentially exposed to COVID-19 in coordination with the State of Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services and the CDC;

WHEREAS, proactively implementing mitigation measures to slow the spread of the virus is in the best interests of Cascade County and its people;

WHEREAS, COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and is a new strain of Coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person-to-person;

WHEREAS, the CDC identifies the potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 both globally and in the United States as "high" and has advised that person-to-person spread of the COVID-19 will continue to occur globally, including within the United States, Montana, and Cascade County;

WHEREAS, the circumstances of this outbreak may exceed the capacity of the services, personnel, equipment, supplies and facilities of Cascade County;

WHEREAS, the Cascade City-County Health Department and the Public Health Officer for Cascade County have the duty to protect the public from the introduction and spread of communicable disease or other conditions of public health importance, including through actions to ensure the removal of filth or other contaminants that might cause disease or adversely affect public health;

WHEREAS, the Public Health Officer has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency and actions must be taken to avert and minimize the outbreak of this communicable disease;

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2021, the newly elected Governor of the State of Montana, Greg Gianforte, issued an order (Order) repealing occupancy, operating hours, and maximum assembly limitation previously issued by former Governor Steve Bullock, but continuing the state mandate requiring, under certain circumstances, the use of masks ("Mask Order");

WHEREAS, the Order provides local Health Officers the ability to analyze the spread of COVID-19 within their own communities and adopt local enforcement protocols as necessary;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated, a local health officer in carrying out the purpose of the public health system shall take steps to limit contact between people in order to protect the public health from imminent threats, including but not limited to ordering the closure of buildings or facilities where people congregate and cancelling events;

WHEREAS, effective November 1, 2020 the Cascade County Public Health Officer issued an order limiting occupancy for bars, restaurants and other related establishments and limited group gatherings, assemblies and the like until such time as new

COVID-19 infections in Cascade County are at or below 25/100,000 for four (4) consecutive weeks;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, pursuant to Title 50, Chapter 2, Part 1, and specifically Section 50-2-118 of the Montana Code Annotated:

2. Effective at 5:00 AM MDT on January 22, 2021 for the period of time up to and until the rate of new COVID-19 infections is at or below 25/100,000 for four (4) consecutive weeks:

A. All restaurants, food courts, cafes, coffee houses, bars, brew pubs, taverns, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, special licensees, clubs, casinos, gyms and movie theaters:

- shall be required to close for inside business and have all patrons out no later than 12:30AM and may reopen after 4:00 AM.
- All such businesses shall continue to maintain adherence with social distancing, sanitation, and face covering requirements.
- shall be required to operate at 75% or less of their maximum occupancy
- Drive-through and delivery for food service only can continue past 12:30AM.

B. Except as otherwise indicated below, gatherings of up to 50 people is allowable anywhere, gatherings between 50-250 individuals indoors and gatherings between 50-500 outdoors are allowed with the approval of an Event Packet:

- Food service establishments that serve a population that depends on it as one of its sole sources of food, including university dining facility or cafeterias in K-12 schools, hospital and care facilities, room service in hotels, crisis shelters or similar institutions, airport concessionaires, and any facilities necessary for the response to the emergency, all of which may

continue to operate using necessary-only personnel.

- Local school districts and their activities (both academic and extracurricular) shall be governed by the local districts and school boards for all school-related activities.
- Youth activities shall comply with the directives currently in place by the Governor of Montana.
- Childcare facilities, in recognition of their critical role in supporting a necessary workforce.

3. In addition to the requirements described hereinabove, it is the recommendation of the Local Public Health Officer that the following control measures be adopted and implemented, in recognition of the need to significantly reduce the high level of COVID-19 and its transmission in Cascade County and the region served by Cascade County's healthcare providers:

- When possible and operationally feasible, Cascade County employers encourage and allow employees to work remotely (telework).
- Whenever possible, Cascade County residents limit their number of close, non-household contacts to no more than six (6) persons per week, as well as limiting the duration of close, non-household contacts to less than fifteen (15 minutes).
- Whenever possible, Cascade County residents utilize contact-free services of businesses, including but not limited to drive-through and take-out food services, non-contact delivery options, and the like.
- When Cascade County residents must leave their homes, residents should minimize the number of trips, locations, and time of interaction, AND practice the safety protocols of wearing a mask, social distancing, following surface sanitation procedures, and washing their hands upon return home.
- Cascade County residents shall stay home when sick.

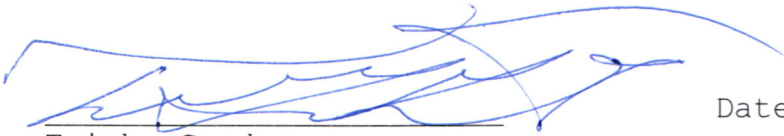
- The public notify health officials of violations of COVID-19 directives by calling the Cascade County Health Department at 454-6950 or using the local website at Health@cascadecountymt.gov. Also, complaints can be directed to the state's Consumer Complaint Form on the state website at: <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/FCSS/ConsumerComplaintForm>. Concerns submitted through this website will be sent to the local Health Department for investigation.
- All public meetings conducted by, staffed by, or held in the facilities of the city, the county or the school district will comply with the state and local guidelines for indoor gatherings. Those with medical, religious, or other reasons for not wearing masks will be provided the opportunity to participate through telephonic or electronic means.

The BOH also **recommends** continuing educational effort on the following:

- General guidelines for maintaining safe work and home environments through mask wearing, social distancing, following sanitation procedures and washing hands.
- Educate business owners of their ability to deny service to patrons who refuse to comply with the Governor's mask order or social distancing requirements. Businesses may summon law enforcement for those who do not comply, and the patron can be removed for trespass.
- Informing citizens in Cascade County of when and how masks should be worn when in dining and drinking businesses. Masks should be worn at the dining table until the patron is eating/drinking; patrons should reapply masks when simply socializing at a table, masks should be worn when walking through the business when taking a seat or departing the business, as well as when using the restroom.

4. These Orders may be modified and/or expanded, and the effective dates may be extended by future directives of the Cascade County Health Officer.

5. These Orders may be modified and/or expanded and may be pre-empted by future directives of the Governor of the State of Montana that are stricter than those contained within this Order of the Cascade County Health Officer.



Trisha Gardner
Health Officer
Cascade City-County Health Department

Dated: January 20, 2021